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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A basket for a washing machine, said basket comprising:

a body comprising an outer wall and at least one rib extending radially inward from said wall, said rib comprising at least a first portion having a first cross section and a second portion having a second cross section, said second cross section different from said first cross section, said outer wall including a plurality of apertures therethrough, said apertures arranged in single vertically aligned columns between adjacent ribs.

2. (original) A basket in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said rib extends substantially vertically.

3. (original) A basket in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said rib comprises a first side and a second side, said basket further comprising at least one circumferential support band extending between said first side and said second side, said band extending from said outer wall.

4. (original) A basket in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said first portion is substantially rectangular in cross section.

5. (original) A basket in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said rib extends radially inward from said outer wall for a distance of about 0.395 to about 1.5 inches.

6. (currently amended) A washing machine basket comprising:

an outer wall; and

a plurality of ribs projecting radially inwardly from said outer wall, each said rib comprising a first end and a second end, said first end projecting a first radial distance from said outer wall, said second end projecting a second radial distance from said outer wall, said first radial distance less than said second radial distance; and

a plurality of apertures formed in said outer wall, said apertures arranged in single vertically aligned columns between adjacent ribs.

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7. (original) A basket in accordance with Claim 6, said rib comprising a transition portion projecting a variable distance from said outer wall, said variable distance ranging from said first radial distance to said second radial distance.

8. (original) A basket in accordance with Claim 7 wherein said variable distance is about 0.395 inches to about 1.5 inches.

9. (original) A basket in accordance with Claim 7, said transition portion further having a varying width.

10. (currently amended) A washing machine basket comprising:

an outer wall and a plurality of vertically extending ribs projecting radially inwardly from said outer wall at a distance of about 0.395 to about 1.5 inches, said outer wall including a plurality of apertures therethrough, said apertures arranged in single vertically aligned columns between adjacent ribs.

11. (currently amended) A basket in accordance with Claim 10, wherein said wall comprising a plurality of apertures therethrough, said apertures are outwardly flared.

12. (original) A basket in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said ribs are outwardly flared at one end thereof.

13. (original) A basket in accordance with Claim 10 further comprising a plurality of circumferential supports extending from said outer wall.

14. (original) A basket in accordance with Claim 13 wherein said supports are substantially flush with an outer surface of said wall.

15. (original) A basket in accordance with Claim 10 wherein a portion of said rib is substantially triangular.

16. (currently amended) A washing machine basket comprising:

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a substantially cylindrical outer wall and a plurality of inwardly projecting ribs depending therefrom, each said rib comprising:

a first portion having a first radially extending height from said outer wall and a first tangential width; and

a second portion having a second radially extending height from said outer wall and a second tangential width, said first height less than said second height, said first width greater than said second width,

wherein, said outer wall includes a plurality of apertures therethrough, said apertures arranged in single vertically aligned columns between adjacent ribs.

17. (original) A basket in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said first height and said second height are in a range from about 0.395 to about 1.5 inches.

18. (original) A basket in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said first portion is substantially rectangular and said second portion is substantially triangular.

19. (currently amended) A washing machine comprising:

a cabinet; and

a basket rotatably mounted in said cabinet, said basket comprising an outer wall and a plurality of radially inwardly projecting ribs extending from said outer wall, said ribs having a varying width between ends thereof, said basket further including a plurality of apertures therethrough, said apertures arranged in single vertically aligned columns between adjacent ribs.

20. (original) A washing machine in accordance with Claim 19, said ribs extending inwardly from said outer wall at a height of approximately 0.395 to 1.5 inches.